

From: Marshall Reeves
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 10:54am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am upset about the Microsoft settlement and the appearance that the company can get away with a minor handslap after running many competing software development companies out of business. I feel that as long as Microsoft is allowed to, they will continue to incorporate software functionality that was previously a feature of a commercial non-operating system product, into their operating system.

Since the various versions of Windows are pervasive on the desktop, consumers will not buy competing software products when their functionality has been bundled into Windows, apparently for free. Microsoft has had a habit of doing this as evidenced by disk compression software when MSDOS was the pervasive operating system and with browsers and multimedia software in Windows. This practice will continue to cause smaller software companies to evaporate or be swallowed whole by Microsoft.

I feel that a much better remedy would be to define what an operating system is and place restrictions on moving other software content into it. This would force Microsoft to sell products in a fair and competitive market rather than disguising them as components of operating system that is purchased by virtually all pc users.

Sincerely,

Paul M. Reeves